



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

December 3, 2019

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján  
Congressman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2231 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Luján:

Thank you for your focus on the Commission's work to modernize and make more productive use of the 2.5 GHz spectrum band. This band is the largest contiguous block of spectrum below 3 GHz in the United States. It is unassigned in much of the country, particularly in the Western United States. And it is well suited to rural deployments. Given the potential of this key mid-band spectrum, we must make sure that the 2.5 GHz band is used to bring advanced wireless services to those who for too long have been on the wrong side of that divide.

As I've seen for myself—from the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota to the Navajo Nation in Arizona, from the Coeur D'Alene Reservation in Idaho to the Jemez and Zia Pueblos in New Mexico—the digital divide is most keenly felt in Indian Country. I want to make sure that those committed to connecting Tribal members in rural areas are given a strong opportunity to succeed. That's why I insisted on, and the Commission included, a Tribal priority filing window in our order opening the 2.5 GHz band for additional use; that early opportunity to access this spectrum will help some of the most marginalized communities in the country.

I know the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) has been working with Commission staff to prepare Tribal communities for the upcoming eligibility window. And following discussions I personally have had with representatives of Tribal and Native Hawaiian organizations, I share your view that Tribes will need sufficient time to prepare and participate in the Tribal priority window. Therefore, on December 2, I sent letters to Tribal and Native Hawaiian leaders, and the FCC also issued a Public Notice, stating that the Tribal priority window will open on February 3, 2020 and close on August 3, 2020. This extended 182-day window is the result of the hard work of agency staff and takes into account NCAI's recent resolution on this issue.

The FCC takes seriously its trust relationship with federally-recognized Tribal Nations, and we share the common goal of closing the digital divide in Indian Country. To this end, it is important that we collaborate to ensure that interested Tribes can take advantage of this unprecedented option. Working together, we can and will bring greater digital opportunity to everyone in Indian Country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

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THE CHAIRMAN

December 3, 2019

The Honorable Bob Latta  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2322A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Latta:

Thank you for your focus on the Commission's work to modernize and make more productive use of the 2.5 GHz spectrum band. This band is the largest contiguous block of spectrum below 3 GHz in the United States. It is unassigned in much of the country, particularly in the Western United States. And it is well suited to rural deployments. Given the potential of this key mid-band spectrum, we must make sure that the 2.5 GHz band is used to bring advanced wireless services to those who for too long have been on the wrong side of that divide.

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THE CHAIRMAN

December 3, 2019

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone:

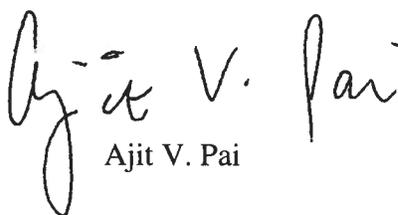
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

December 3, 2019

The Honorable Raul Ruiz  
Congressman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2342 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Ruiz:

Thank you for your focus on the Commission's work to modernize and make more productive use of the 2.5 GHz spectrum band. This band is the largest contiguous block of spectrum below 3 GHz in the United States. It is unassigned in much of the country, particularly in the Western United States. And it is well suited to rural deployments. Given the potential of this key mid-band spectrum, we must make sure that the 2.5 GHz band is used to bring advanced wireless services to those who for too long have been on the wrong side of that divide.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF  
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December 3, 2019

The Honorable Tom O'Halleran  
Congressman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
126 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman O'Halleran:

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